THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The rate of gross capital formation in the economy is influenced by the rate of saving in the household public and private sectors. As per the latest available figures, the household sector registered an improvement in gross capital formation from 8.2% of Gross Domestic Product in 1998-99 to 9.2% in 1999-2000. Thus there was increase in the rate of capital formation in the household sector despite reduction in the interest rates on small savings on January 1, 1999.

(c) Interest rates have been reduced as the real rates were considered high and were preventing downward movement of other interest rates in the economy. Suitable measures are taken from time to time for continued and enhanced mobilisation of resources. In addition to attractive returns and tax concessions, small savings schemes offer implicit sovereign guarantee, easy liquidity and accessibility.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Declaration of Tirumala as "No Fly Zone"

136. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tirumala has been declared as "No Fly Zone" as requested by the Andhra Pradesh Government for security reasons;

(b) if so, since when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTR OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (c) The matter is under consideration.

Airports in NER

137. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the buildings and air-strips of Airports in the NER, including Lilabari Airprot, North Lakhimpur, are operational;

(b) if so, the steps taken for air connectivity with the rest of the country and abroad;